

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 /066 W
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R 031633Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1784
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLS
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6056

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PCI OFFICIAL

SUMMARY: DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, A
SENIOR ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL (PCI) EXPRESSED
GENERAL SATISFACTION OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE COUNTRY'S
POLITICAL CRISIS ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE
REACTION WITHIN PCI RANKS OVER THE FAILURE TO INTRODUCE
NEW MEN INTO THE PRESENT ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. HE
DESCRIBED THE PARTY'S CONCERN OVER THE NEGATIVE IMPACT
OF THE MORO KIDNAPPING, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT IT PROVIDES
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THE PCI WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT CAN
WORK EFFECTIVELY WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES IN MATTERS
AFFECTING THE GENERAL NATIONAL INTEREST. FINALLY, HE
INDICATED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE SHOWING OF THE UNITED
LEFT IN THE RECENT FRENCH ELECTIONS AND STATED THAT IT
REINFORCES THE CONVICTION OF THE PCI THAT ELECTORAL
SUCCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF POLICIES WHICH

ARE ATTRACTIVE NOT ONLY TO THE WORKING CLASS BUT ALSO TO MIDDLE CLASS VOTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, PCI SECRETARIAT AND DIRECTORATE MEMBER GIORIO NAPOLITANO EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION OVER THE OUTCOME OF THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL CRISIS. HE NOTED THAT THE ADMISSION OF THE PCI INTO THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY MARKED THE ABOLITION OF ONE OF THE LAST EXISTING PREJUDICES WHICH PREVENTED THE PCI FROM BEING TREATED AS THE EQUAL OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES. EMBOFF INTERJECTED THAT IT APPEARED THAT IN TRIGGERING THE CRISIS THE PCI APPARENTLY ONLY HAD THE NEW GOVERNMENT DID NOT APPEAR TO ADDRESS THE TYPE OF EMERGENCY WHICH THE PCI HAD DESCRIBED AS EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY. NAPOLITANO REGISTERED A MILD PROTEST TO THIS ASSERTION, CLAIMING THE PCI INTENDS TO PUSH FOR VIGOROUS GOVERNMENT ACTION.

2. NAPOLITANO MADE NO BONES IN DESCRIBING THE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE REACTION AT ALL LEVELS IN THE PCI OVER THE FAILURE TO BRING MORE THAN TWO NEW FACES INTO THE PRESENT ANDROTTI GOVERNMENT. HE ALLEGED THAT THE PROBLEM AROSE AS A RESULT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VETO OF THE IDEA OF BRINGING THREE TECHNICIANS INTO THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST DISAPPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL TO APPOINT REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO

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THE GOVERNMENT. NAPOLITANO NOTED THAT ALL THE OTHER PARTIES, INCLUDING THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF TECHNICIANS. HOWEVER, ONE THE VETO HAD BEEN RAISED, NAPOLITANO REPORTED IT WAS DC PRESIDENT MORO HIMSELF WHO DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY SERIOUS CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING CONTINUITY WITH THE OUTGOING ANDROTTI GOVERNMENT. NAPOLITANO FELT THAT THE PCI COULD EASILY DEAL WITH THE DISCONTENT IN ITS RANKS BY POINTING TO THE POLITICAL ADVANCE FOR THE PARTY WHICH HAD OCCURRED AND BY PRESSING CONSISTENTLY FOR CONCRETE ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT. REGARDING THE LIFE SPAN OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, NAPOLITANO STATED THAT THE PCI DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CHANGE IN THE NATIONAL POLITICAL BALANCE UNTIL AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER AND THAT HIS PARTY, BARRING THE UNEXPECTED, HAD NO INTENTION OF BRINGING THE GOVERNMENT DOWN IN THE INTERIM.

3. DISCUSSING THE MORO KIDNAPPING, NAPOLITANO CONCEDED THAT IT PRESENTED MANY UNKNOWNNS FOR THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SITUATION. WHILE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO

SPECULATE ON THE FINAL REPERCUSSIONS OF THE KIDNAPPING,
NAPOLITANO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE EFFECT THAT IT

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MIGHT HAVE, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT THAT MORO WOULD
NOT RETURN TO RESUME A ROLE IN POLITICAL LIFE, ON THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. IN HIS VIEW, MOR HAS
SERVED TO GUARANTEE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PARTY,
ESPECIALLY IN THE IDEOLOGICAL SENSE, WHICH HAS PERMITTED
THE DC IN THE RECENT, PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT DAYS TO
PRESERVE ITS UNITY. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MOR
FROM THE SCENE COULD IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON THIS UNITY
AND COULD EVEN INDUCE THE ARTY TO MOVE IN ANOTHER
POLITICAL DIRECTION.

4. AS FOR THE PCI, IT NOW REALIZED THAT THE BRIGATE
ROSSE (BR) MUST BE FOUGHT ON IDEOLOGICAL TERMS, ESPE-
CIALLY DEALING WITH THE BAE OF THE PARTYON THE
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SUBJECT, AND THAT THE PCI LEADERSHIP CAN NO LONGER
CONTENT ITSELF WITH CONDEMNING EXTREME-LEFT TERRORISTS AS
FASCISTS WHO ARE
MASQUERADING AS LEFTISTS. THE PCI, BASED ON A RECENT
DECISION OF THE SECRETARIAT, WILL NOW ARGUE THAT
THE MEMBERS OF THE BR ARE LEFTIST WHO ARE MISINTERPRETING
COMMUNIST THEORY.

5. NAPOLITANO FELT THAT THE RESPONSIBLE POSITION
ASSUMED BY THE PCI IN THE WAKE OF THE KIDNAPPING HAD
INCREASED THE PARTY'S IMAGE IN THE EYES OF THE NATION.
THE PARTY WAS PROVING THAT IT COULD WORK TOGETHER WITH
THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES DURING A POLITICAL CRISIS,
AND THE NATION HAD SEEN THAT THE PCI WAS PREPARED TO
DISPENSE WITH THE CONFIDENCE DEABATE ON THE NEW
GOVERNMENT EVEN THOUGH THE PARTY HAD MAJOR RESERVATIONS
IT WISHED TO EXPRESS ON THE COMPOSITON OF THE GOVERNMENT.

6. IN REVIEWING THE FRENCH ELECTION RESULTS NAPOLITANO
EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE FAILURE OF THE LEFT TO
ACHIEVE VICTORY, AND RELUCTANTLY OTED THAT PCF
BEHAVIOR LAST FALL CONTRIBUTED HEAVILY TO THE MEDIOCRE
SHOWING. HE NOTED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE LEFT IN
FRANCE WOULD NOT HAVE ANY MAJOR IMPACT ON THE FORTUNES
OF THE PCI, WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IT SUPPORTED THE
PCI ARGUMENT THAT COMMUNIST PARTIES MUST
PRESENT POLICIES WHIC AARE ATTRACTIVE NOT ONLY TO THE
WORKING CLASS BUT ALSO TO THE MIDDLE CLASS.HOLMES

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